



MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of Proposal: Bruce Creek Mine, Crushing Plant, and Milling Plant. The proposed barite mining and processing project consists of an underground mine in the vicinity of Bruce Creek, a Crushing Plant north of Northport, and a Milling Plant in Northport.

Proponent: ALBAR Industrial Minerals Ltd.

Location of Proposal, including street address if any: The Bruce Creek Mine lies on two 40-acre parcels within Section 5, Township 37 N, Range 39 E.W.M. at 1581 Dead Medicine Road, Evans, Washington. Mine surface facilities will disturb about 7.63 acres of this area. The crushing plant site covers about 3.5 acres on the west side of the Columbia River, and north of old State Highway No. 22, near Northport, within the NE¼ of Section 36, Township 40 N, Range 39 E.W.M. The milling plant lies within the town of Northport at 113 3rd Street. All the sites are located in Stevens County.

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment contingent upon the following mitigation measures:

- Prior to ground disturbance, materials staging, or traffic at the Crushing Plant and Milling Plant properties, the proponent must conduct surface and near-surface soil sampling to test for the presence of elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and cadmium. Perform sampling and analysis consistent with standard practice (Guidance on Sampling and Data Analysis Methods, 1995, Publication No. 94-49) (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/9449.html>). Depending on the findings, reporting or remedial action may be required as established by state law (Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation, WAC 173-340) prior to operations.
- The proponent must complete a hydrogeologic study as outlined in the Final Work Plan for a Hydrogeologic Study and Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring at the Proposed Bruce Creek Mine, prepared by Ecology and Environment, Inc., October, 2013.
- For storage of wasterock above ground at the Bruce Creek Mine, the proponent must use an engineered double membrane lined containment facility. The proponent must submit a design report and operation and maintenance procedures for the storage facility, per Chapter 173-240 WAC, for Department of Ecology review and approval prior to construction.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS

☒ This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the publication date below. Comments must be submitted by November 6, 2013 to Terri Costello, SEPA Coordinator, Department of Ecology, 4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99207-1295, or terri.costello@ecy.wa.gov.

Responsible Official:

Grant D. Pfeifer

Position/Title:

Regional Director
Eastern Regional Office

Date:

10/21/13

Signature:

Grant D. Pfeifer

Publication Date: October 23, 2013 in the Colville Statesman Examiner

NOTICE OF MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

The Department of Ecology issued a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act Rules [Chapter 197-11-350(3) WAC] for the following project: Bruce Creek Barite Mine, Crushing Plant, and Milling Plant. The Department will require the following mitigation measures for this proposal:

- Prior to ground disturbance, materials staging, or traffic at the Crushing Plant and Milling Plant properties, the proponent must conduct surface and near-surface soil sampling to test for the presence of elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and cadmium. Perform sampling and analysis consistent with standard practice (Guidance on Sampling and Data Analysis Methods, 1995, Publication No. 94-49) (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/9449.html>). Depending on the findings, reporting or remedial action may be required as established by state law (Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation, WAC 173-340) prior to operations.
- The proponent must complete a hydrogeologic study as outlined in the Final Work Plan for a Hydrogeologic Study and Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring at the Proposed Bruce Creek Mine, prepared by Ecology and Environment, Inc., October, 2013.
- For storage of wasterock above ground at the Bruce Creek Mine, the proponent must use an engineered double membrane lined containment facility. The proponent must submit a design report and operation and maintenance procedures for the storage facility, per Chapter 173-240 WAC, for Department of Ecology review and approval prior to construction.

The proposed project consists of three primary components: the Bruce Creek Mine, a Crushing Plant, and a Milling Plant. The proposed mine is an underground barite mine located on two 40 acre parcels within Section 5, Township 37 N, Range 39 E.W.M. at 1581 Dead Medicine Road, Evans, Washington. The site will include underground mine workings, an access road, an ore stockpile area, a waste rock stockpile area, a septic system and drinking water well, an electrical substation, a backup generator and associated fuel storage tank, and semi-permanent trailers for offices and employee facilities. The surface facilities will disturb about 7.63 acres.

The proponent will transport the barite ore from the mine to the Crushing Plant located on about 3.5 acres on the west side of the Columbia River, and north of old State Highway No. 22, near Northport, within the NE¼ of Section 36, Township 40 N, Range 39 E.W.M. The proposed Crushing Plant will consist of a raw material (barite ore) storage area; a feed hopper-jaw crusher-cone crusher assembly that will yield minus ¾ inch ore material; two finished goods stockpile areas; and driveways for truck access.

The proponent will truck the crushed ore about 1 mile to the Milling Plant located within the town of Northport, adjacent to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad lines, at 113 3rd Street. The proposed Milling Plant will consist of incoming truck scales and an associated scale shed; two ore stockpile areas; a mill building containing a feed hopper, Raymond mill, and cyclone; two storage silos for milled ore; a bagging building containing a conveyor from the storage silos, a bagging machine, and equipment for preparing bagged ore for shipment; a product storage building; and driveways for truck access and railcar loading operations. The Milling Plant site covers an area of approximately 8 acres.

After review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the agency, The Department has determined this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, with the agency specified mitigating measures. Copies of the mitigated MDNS are available at no charge from the Department, 4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295. The public is invited to comment on this MDNS by submitting written comments to Terri Costello, SEPA Coordinator, at the above address, or at terri.costello@ecy.wa.gov, no later than November 6, 2013.